

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-15, and 19-30 are pending.

The Examiner objects to the disclosure and to claims 1-18 for the language "reactor core". The Examiner suggests changing this phrase to "nuclear reactor core" to provide greater clarity. Applicants have amended the specification and claims consistent with the Examiner's suggestion.

Claims 2 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 16 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 4-16, 14 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten independent form. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 4, and independent claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 18. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 15 are believed allowable. In addition, claims 5, 7-14 and 19-26, dependent upon claims 1 and 15, are believed patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 15 as well as on their own merits.

Applicants have added new independent claims 27-30. Independent claim 27 recites the limitations of claims 1 and 5, and independent claim 28

recites the limitations of claims 15 and 5. Since the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, claims 27 and 28 are believed patentable.

Similarly, independent claim 29 includes the limitations of claims 1 and 6, while claim 30 includes the limitations of claims 15 and 6. Again, because the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, claims 26 and 27 are believed patentable.

The above-discussed amendments are believed to render the art grounds of rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

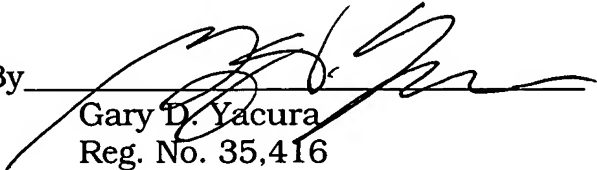
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By



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